

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2006. With this Amendment, FIG. 2 is amended, the specification is amended, claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 24 are amended, claim 2 is cancelled, and the remaining claims are unchanged. Claims 29-42 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-28 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In item 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that reference number 200 was missing from FIG.2. With this Amendment, FIG. 2 is amended to include reference number 200. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

In item 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that reference numbers 246, 303 and 524 were missing from the specification. The Applicant has reviewed the specification and has amended the specification to include the missing reference numbers 303 and 524. This text added to the specification is fully supported by the associated figure, and therefore no new matter is presented. Reference number 524 was erroneously typed as 514 and is corrected in this amendment. Reference number 246 is disclosed in the original specification at paragraph 43. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested. With these amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's objections have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

In item 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1,2,7,8,15,16 and 19 under 35 USC§102(e) as being anticipated by Reinhardt U.S. Patent 6,772,164. After reviewing the Reinhardt reference, the Examiner's comments and the present claim amendments it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot. In particular, in the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 3-8 and 20-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With this amendment, claims 1 and 19 are amended to include limitations similar to that of claims 3 and 20, respectively. Therefore, with this Amendment, it is believed that the Examiner's rejections have been fully overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In item 15 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 USC

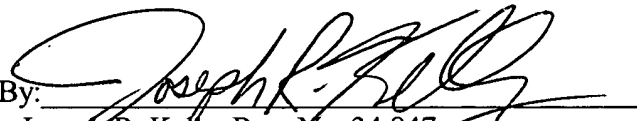
§103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinhardt in view of Brandli et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,701,469. In item 17 the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 24 under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinhart in view of Official Notice. In item 19, the Examiner rejected claims 11-13 and 25-27 under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinhardt in view of Official Notice and in further view of Brandli. With these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections have been overcome. However, to the extent any rejections are maintained, Applicant specifically traverses the Official Notice taken by the Examiner and requests that the Examiner cite art which Applicant can review and rebut, if necessary. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In conclusion it is respectfully submitted that with these amendments the claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 
Joseph R. Kelly, Reg. No. 34,847
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3244
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

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